

kind of behavior. That is how they beat Max Cleland, and that is how they beat Senator Daschle. We are not going to let them win without telling the American people this is a shameful kind of tactic. They have no scruples when they do something like this.

No one is suggesting the Republicans are a disloyal party or that they have a particular hate design to their association. But when any group associated with the party suggests that suicide bombers are something that Democrats encourage, to trifle with the loss of life that occurred in Israel, and now we see it in Baghdad—how do we feel about our soldiers serving so bravely and gallantly in Iraq, losing their lives? How do we feel about the Iraqis who lost over 100 of their citizens in one day in a suicide bomb attack? We feel terrible.

As a consequence, when something like this, something as scurrilous as this is used, we will condemn it. We are proud of Senator BYRD. He has served this country nobly for many years. Did we disagree with him on some things? Absolutely. We disagree with each other on many occasions. That is what our responsibility is, to disagree when we think something is wrong.

I hope this group will not continue this insinuation that Democrats are disloyal, that Democrats would stand for suicide bombers who kill not only Israelis, who kill our soldiers. Is that what they want to say about Democrats? Perhaps a look in the mirror by people at the top of the administration to examine their own military service and see if they were there to protect the rights of our people.

Use a tactic like this? It cannot work, it shouldn't work, and it won't work.

TRIBUTE TO MAX M. FISHER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it was with a great deal of sadness that I learned today that one of the great patriots in America, a man from Illinois, Max Fisher, passed away.

Max Fisher has been a great American statesman, a patriot, a public servant, an entrepreneur, and community leader. He lived in Michigan. He has some Illinois roots also. He was born in 1908 to humble beginnings. He built a company that became SPEEDWAY 76. He was the driving force behind the revitalization of the city of Detroit, and he was a close adviser to four U.S. Presidents.

I got to know him quite well during the 1990s. I was able to visit with him personally. I got to know his family. I was so impressed with his commitment to his family, his community, his people, and his Nation.

He was a great American and a righteous man. We have lost one of our great patriots in America today. I wanted to pay special tribute to Max Fisher and his family on this occasion.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT ERIC STEFFENEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a soldier who has fallen in service to his country in Iraq. SSG Eric Steffeney of the 18th Ordnance Company died on the 23rd of February near Tuz, Iraq, when an undetected explosive detonated while he cleared the road of landmines. He was 28 years old and is survived by his mother, Annette, his father, Gary, his wife, Theresa, and their three children, Benjamin, Caitlin, and Dennis.

Staff Sergeant Steffeney grew up in Waterloo, IA, where he attended West High School. He graduated from high school early and enlisted in the Army when he was 17 years old. Initially serving as a paratrooper, Staff Sergeant Steffeney eventually joined the Army's bomb squad because he thought it would be more challenging. He was finishing his second tour of duty when he was killed.

Staff Sergeant Steffeney was described as a quiet, loyal, and responsible man who was a good soldier and an all-American boy. Indeed, it is the dedicated and courageous people such as SSG Eric Steffeney who embody the ideals of this great country best and, through the way they lived and gave their lives, keep her people standing proud and strong. I ask all of my colleagues to remember with pride and appreciation this soldier. I give my condolences to the family and friends of Staff Sergeant Steffeney who have felt this loss most deeply. I offer my most sincere gratitude and respect to SSG Eric Steffeney. This country is forever indebted to him and his colleagues for the sacrifices they have made to uphold the ideals which we treasure most as Americans.

STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM T. ROBBINS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, Today, I rise to honor the life of SSG William Robbins. At home in Arkansas, he was, above all else, a loving family man who devoted himself entirely to his wife and his children. On the front lines of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was a dedicated soldier who bravely fought to bring security and stability to a nation torn apart by war.

Staff Sergeant Robbins was born and raised in the small, southern Missouri town of Poplar Bluff. He spent his childhood, as many children do, playing with his friends with whom he shared a love for the outdoors. From an early age, he knew he wanted to be a soldier, and regardless of where he was or what he did, that thought was never far from his mind.

In 1990, he moved to Arkansas and settled in the North Little Rock area. It was there he met the love of his life, his future wife Kimberly, and together they would raise two beautiful daughters, 5-year-old Tristan Ellis, and Abigail, who was less than a year old. It was clear to those who knew him best that his family was his pride and joy and he cherished every minute he spent

with them. This fun-loving soul had a special affinity for children and at family gatherings was often found with the youngest of the group, playing games and bringing smiles to everyone's faces.

In the Arkansas National Guard, SSG Robbins worked full-time as administrative sergeant at the Guard's armory in Beebe. Last year, he was one of only about a dozen soldiers from the armory mobilized for duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It would prove to be a bitter-sweet time for the Robbins family; just as the family welcomed home William's mother Janice, a major in the Army Reserves returning from a deployment in Germany, they bid him farewell with prayers of a safe return.

Staff Sergeant Robbins' deployment was the first in his 11-year service in the Arkansas National Guard. While in Iraq, he was attached to the 206th Field Artillery Battalion of the 39th Infantry Brigade, and was selected to work in a military advisory capacity with the Iraqi National Guard. As American forces sought to transition more of their security and stabilization responsibilities to the Iraqi people, SSG Robbins advised and trained these civilian volunteers on infantry tactics as well as the fundamental aspects of being a soldier.

Last fall, SSG Robbins took his military leave and was able to return home for a short time. It was a much-needed reprieve from the dangers of Iraq and offered him the opportunity to return to the place he called home and spend time with the people he cared for most. It also offered him the opportunity to explain to Tristan, who was simply too young to fully understand, why her father had been away and when he would be back for good. As best he could, he explained to her the circumstances of his absence and even the possibility that he may not return. He was once a young man with a parent in the military and could relate to the lack of comprehension children often have in these situations. Relying on this perspective, as well as the natural gift he had always shown in relating to children, Tristan's father was able to provide her with some much needed comfort and understanding.

Along with many of the soldiers from the 39th, SSG Robbins' mission was soon coming to an end and he was to scheduled to return to Arkansas in late March or April. Upon his return, he was looking forward to a new job with the Arkansas National Guard at Camp Robinson's Regional Training Institute in North Little Rock. Even more so, he was looking forward to being reunited with his family. When he spoke with Kimberly, he reminded her how very much he loved her and couldn't wait to come home. When he spoke with Tristan, he told her how much he looked forward to seeing her again so he could take her in his arms and swing her like an airplane.